An Obſervation of Dr. Johnſtons *of* Pomphret, *communicated by him to Mr.* Liſter, *and by him ſent in a Letter to the Publiſher, concerning ſome Stones of a perfect Gold-colour, found in Animals.*

THat no page of this Letter may be empty (ſaith Mr. *Liſter*) I ſhall tranſcribe for you an Obſervation of Dr. *Johnſtons*. In the *German* Philoſophic *Ephemerides* of the year 1672, I meet with theſe words of Doctor *Wedelius*, Obſ. 246. pag 439. *Poſſideo particulam Calculi vaccini, inſtar Auri foliorum fulgidi*; the ſubject of that Obſervation being an Enumeration and the Deſcription of ſeveral Stones found in divers Animals, as in Doggs, Hoggs, Staggs, and in Cows alſo; of which laſt the now quoted words are all he ſaith. I do begg Dr. *Johnſtons* pardon for having kept by me two years an Obſervation of this nature, which he was pleaſed to communicate to me, and which yet was ſo ſurpriſing, that I had not the aſſurance to offer it to you, being, in this as well as in all other matters, relating to the *phænomena* of Natural Hiſtory, very diffident. What reaſons I then had to doubt of the truth of this Obſervation, he beſt knows, and I ſhall not trouble you with; being a little more confident ſince I read the words of D. *Wedelius*, that the Stones ſent me by the Learned Doctor were ſuch indeed, and not ſome Inſects Eggs, as I once did verily perſwade myſelf they were.

His Letter bears date *April* 22. 1672. from *Pomphret*.

ABout this time twelve month *(ſaith the Doctor)* one *Thomas Capidge*, a butcher of *Pomphret*, killed an Ox for the ſhambles, in which nothing was obſerved, preternatural, till the Bladder being blown by his ſervant, there was ſome thing obſerved ſticking to the inſide with a duſkiſh froth. Keeping the Bladder half-blown, the butchers Son, who firſt diſcover'd it, knocked with his hand on the ſide and the bottom of the bladder, to make it ſettle to the neck, and by ſhaking and ſqueezing it got out the froth, and about *two hundred* little globular ſtones of ſeveral ſizes, the biggeſt being about this (O) circumference; others like pin-heads or muſtard-ſeed. He

rubb'd the ſlimy froth from them, and they appear'd of a duskiſh yellow colour and ſmooth. Some he broak, and the reſt he kept in a paper; which when dry, they were like *Seed-pearl*, but more ſmooth, and of a *perfect gold-colour*, and ſo ever after continued, as you ſee them. Viewed in a Microſcope, they appeared very poliſhed, and without any rugoſities: The Figure in moſt was ſphærical; in ſome a little compreſſed; the colour like *burniſht gold*. I broke one or two of them with ſome difficulty, and I found by the Microſcope, that it was only a thin ſhell that was ſo orient and bright, the inner ſide of which ſhell was like unpoliſh't gold; The inmoſt ſubſtance was like brown Sugar-candy to the naked eye, but not ſo tranſparent: The taſte was not diſcernable. In Spirit of Vitriol they ſhrunk much and waſted, but continued their colour, (poſſibly by reaſon of the outward skin, which, it ſeems, in theſe was as difficult to diſſolve as in true pearls:) Likewiſe *Aqua fortis* would corrode and diſſolve them tumultuouſly.

Thus far the Doctor. I do not queſtion (ſo concludes Mr. *Liſter,*) but he hath ſtore of theſe *gült* ſtones in his cabinet; for, as I remember, he was ſo choice of them, that the parcel he ſent me to view, was order'd to be returned again; at leaſt, none of them remained with me.

I am

Yours.

York March 12.
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Extracts